

The media play an important role in our democracy - and that role is to inform the citizenry. Without an informed citizenry, democracy is not possible. An informed citizenry can only exist when it is presented with accurate information and a variety of opinions.

As a consumer of a publicly-owned resource, the broadcast media have a strong obligation to inform voters. Yet when corporations such as Sinclair Broadcasting skirt laws intended to ensure a fair and airing of opinions by broadcasting one-sided stories that are politically motivated, it is the responsibility of the government to ensure free debate in our society.

I therefore urge you to forcefully respond to the decision by Sinclair to air a politically motivated "documentary" that, rather than intending to provide information and promote debate, is clearly and openly an attempt to sway the outcome of an election. The decision by Sinclair to attempt to influence the

outcome of an
election undermines
democracy and
violates Sinclair's
responsibility to
serve the public
interest.

I ask that Sinclair
broadcasting be
reminded of their
public
responsibilities and
be forced to act
accordingly. SUch a
documentary is not
news and shoud not
be considered as
such. It is my
opinion that the
presentation should
either not be aired
or that Sinclair be
required to provide
Senator Kerry with
the means to respond
in an equal manner.

Sincerely,
Frank Vaughan